



Building a Europe
for and with children

Construire une Europe
pour et avec les enfants



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Strasbourg, 29 April 2025

Parallel session 5th World Congress on Justice with Children

ENF-JUS First meeting 14-15 May 2025

(In presence)

Strasbourg

Workshop

Title of workshop	Bridging the Gap: International Standards and National Practices in Child Sexual Violence Proceedings
Abstract	<p>“At the age of 12, B reported having been sexually abused between the ages of 7-10. Four criminal proceedings were brought against four suspects. Over a period of one year and seven months, B was interviewed 12 times by different investigators. B had to repeat the facts of the abuse in detail for each of the proceedings. After the proceedings, B was diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder and depression, to the point of suicide risk and self-harm”.</p> <p>The case study is a real example of secondary victimisation of a child by the judicial system. This session will explore how policy makers and legal operators can use international standards such as the Convention for the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-friendly Justice, in the light of ECtHR case-law, to prevent cases like this and how their principles could be standardised and implemented in different national legal and administrative systems. The session will additionally explore how relevant promising practices, such as child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency (MDIA) models (e.g. <i>Barnahus</i>) can provide a coordinated and integrated response to prevent secondary victimisation.</p> <p>The workshop will address the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What is secondary victimisation in criminal cases of sexual violence against children?- How can the standards included in the <i>Lanzarote Convention</i> and in the <i>CoE Child-friendly Justice Guidelines</i> protect children against secondary victimisation before, during and after judicial proceedings?- How do MDIA services contribute to prevent secondary victimisation of children and provide a comprehensive response to these cases? <p>This Workshop will contribute to exploring the intertwined nature of violence against children and child-friendly justice and how these should be seen as a whole in order to protect child victims of sexual violence and to advance child-centred justice.</p>
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